

# **CITY OF NORTHAMPTON MASSACHUSETTS**

*In the City Council, September 21st, 2017*

Upon the Recommendation of Councilors Ryan R. O'Donnell, Alisa F. Klein and William H. Dwight

## **R-17.396 A RESOLUTION**

### **OPPOSING THE INSTALLATION OF MUNICIPALLY-OPERATED SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY DOWNTOWN**

WHEREAS, Downtown Northampton thrives culturally and economically in part due to a free and open civic atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, People should have the right to not be constantly surveilled, as well as certain rights relative to the data that may be collected on them; and

WHEREAS, While video footage is often used to identify suspects after a crime, research strongly suggests that surveillance cameras do not effectively deter crime; and

WHEREAS, Surveillance has been shown to alter legitimate, non-criminal behavior and produce a chilling effect on free expression; and

WHEREAS, Surveillance can lead to diminished public trust in law enforcement, conflicting with the trust built by Northampton's community policing efforts; and

WHEREAS, Surveillance in Northampton does not pass the test of necessity, because alternatives, such as community policing, are available; and

WHEREAS, Surveillance in Northampton does not pass the test of proportionality, because clearly-defined and ongoing problems of a severity outweighing the aforementioned drawbacks have not been demonstrated; and

WHEREAS, Policies regarding the use of surveillance technology, including questions of data retention and sharing, public notification, internal auditing requirements, and others, should not be set exclusively by the agency that is governed by those policies, but rather codified in laws that are subject to public oversight; and

WHEREAS, Overly-broad public surveillance is inconsistent with an open and democratic society;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council opposes the permanent installation of additional municipally-operated surveillance technology in public places in downtown Northampton.